Words

To

Know

Allegory (n):

A symbolic narrative

Alliteration (n):

The repetition of initial identical consonant sounds or any vowel sounds in successive syllables, esp. stressed syllables.

Allusion (n):

A figure of speech that makes brief reference to a historical or literary figure, event, or object.

Abmiguous (adj):

open to or having several possible meanings orinterpretations;

equivocal

Analogy (n):

A comparison of two things, alike in certain aspects; simile is an expressed analogy, a metaphor is an implied one

Anaphora (n):

A device in which the same expression (word or words) is repeated at the beginning of two or more lines, clauses, or sentences.

Anthropomorphism (n):

Ascribing human characteristics to nonhuman objects

Argumentation (n):

One of the four chief forms of discourse; to convince.

Ballad (n):

A form of verse to be sung or recited and characterized by a dramatic episode in simple narrative.

Caesura (n):

A pause or break in a line of verse

Canto (n):

one of the main or larger divisions of a long poem.

Catharsis (n):

The process by which an unhealthy emotional state caused by an imbalance of feelings is corrected and emotional health returns.

Cliché (n):

Any expression used so often that it is no longer fresh or clear

Conflict (n):

The struggle that grows out of the interplay of two opposing forces.

Connotation (n):

The emotional implications and associations that words may carry apart from their denotative meanings.

Critic (n):

One who estimates and passes judgment on the nature, value, and quality of artistic works.

Denotation (n):

The basic meaning of a word.

Description (n):

One of the four chief forms of composition: to picture a scene or setting.

Didactic (adj):

Meant to teach a lesson.

Diction (n):

Style or writing or speaking dependent on word choice

Dystopia (n):

Literally a “bad place,” usually exemplified in imaginary or future worlds in which present tendencies reach unpleasant culminations.

Ekphrasis (n):

A representation of an artwork in a literary work.

Epiphany (n):

An event in which the essential nature of something (person, place, object) was suddenly perceived.

Ethos (n):

The character of a speaker/writer as reflected in a speech/writing; the set of emotions enacted to affect the audience.

Exposition (n):

One of the four chief forms of composition: to explain.

Foil (n):

A person who, through contrast, underscores the distinctive characteristics of another.

Foreshadowing (n):

The presentation of material in a work in such a way that prepares for later events.

Genre (n):

Used to designate the types or categories into which texts are grouped according to form, technique, or subject matter.

Gothic (adj):

In literature, referencing the medieval, natural, primitive, wild, free. Texts that are rich, mysterious, and varied.

Historical Fiction (n):   
a text set among actual events or a specific period of history;

Hubris (n):

Pride or insolence that results in misfortune for the protagonist or a tragedy.

Hymn (n):

A poem expressing religious emotion and generally intended to be sung.

Hyperbole (n):

Exaggeration.

Image (n):

A literal and concrete representation of a sensory experience; a collection of these representations is *imagery*.

Irony (n):

A figure of speech in which the actual intent is expressed in words that carry the opposite meaning.

Metaphor (n):

An analogy identifying one object with another and ascribing one or more qualities of the second object to the first.

Meter (n):

The recurrence in poetry of a rhythmic pattern.

Mood (n):

The emotional/intellectual attitude of the author toward his/her subject.

Motif (n):

A simple element that serves as a basis for expanded narrative. Also, recurring images, words, objects, phrases, or actions that unify the work.

Narration (n):

One of the four chief forms of composition: to recount events.

Ode (n):

A single, unified strain of exalted lyrical verse directed to a single purpose and dealing with one theme.

Onomatopoeia (n):

Words that by their sound suggest their meaning.

Oxymoron (n):

A self-contradictory combination of words

Parable (n): a short allegorical story designed to illustrate or teach some truth, religious principle, or moral lesson.

Paradox (n):

A statement that is seemingly contradictory or absurd, but is actually well-founded or true.

Paraphrase (n):

A restatement of an idea in such a way to retain the meaning while changing the exact wording.

Parody (n):

A composition imitating another, more serious, piece.

Pathos (n):

The quality in art and literature that stimulates pity, tenderness, or sorrow.

Pedantry (n):

A display of learning for its own sake

Persona (n):

A term referencing a “second self” created by an author and through whom the narrative is told.

Personification (n):

A figure that endows animals, ideas, abstractions, and inanimate with human forms.

Polemic (n):

A vigorously argumentative work, setting forth the author’s attitude on a highly controversial subject.

Propaganda (n):

Material with the purpose of advocating a political or ideological position.

Protagonist (n):

The chief character in a work.

Quatrain (n):

A stanza or four lines.

Rhetoric (n):

The art of persuasion through the presentation of ideas in clear, persuasive language.

Satire (n):

A work that uses humor and wit for improving human institutions or humanity.

Scansion (n):

A system for describing conventional rhythms by dividing lines of poetry into feet, indicating accents, and counting syllables.

Simile (n):

A figure in which a similarity between two objects is directly expressed.

Symbol (n):

Something that is itself and also stands for something else.

Syntax (n):

The rule-governed arrangement of words in sentences.

Text (n):

Anything isolated for attention

Theme (n):

A central idea.

Thesis (n):

An attitude or position on a problem taken by a writer/speaker with the purpose of proving or supporting it.

Tone (n):

Implied attitude toward the subject and audience in a literary work.

Utopia (n):

An ideal world

Verse (n):

Generally metrical composition